

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04034 251504Z

51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /097 W

----- 012103

R 242216Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8114

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4034

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAN PRESS TREATMENT OF ALLEGED C.I.A. ACTIVITIES

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3909

1. THE SAN PEDRO SULA NEWSPAPERS HAVE CONTINUED THEIR FEUD DESCRIBED REFTEL OVER THE PAST WEEK AND TREATED C.I.A. ACTIVITY AS A CENTRAL ISSUE. LA NOTICIA (ADVISED BY CUBAN EXILE ROLANDO MERUELO) ON SEPTEMBER 18 REPRINTED ON THE FRONT PAGE A FACSIMILE OF THE TIEMPO SEPTEMBER 18 FRONT PAGE DESCRIBED REFTEL. LA NOTICIA CALLS THE AUTHORS IMBECILES AND CRETINS AND SAYS THE ISSUE IS "AN EXAMPLE OF THE INTELLECTUAL LIMITATIONS OF SOME OF THE DISTINGUISHED SPOKESMEN OF POPULIST AND COMMUNIST IDEAS."

2. TIEMPO RETURNED TO THE ATTACK AGAINST LA NOTICIA, LA PRENSA AND MERUELO ON SEPTEMBER 23 WITH AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE C.I.A.: COMMON PRACTICE OF A GREAT POWER." THE ARTICLE, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 04034 251504Z

ALLUDING TO ALLEGED C.I.A. INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS

OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS, BEGINS BY QUOTING PRESIDENT FORD AS SAYING SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE "AN ACCEPTED FACT IN THE ACTIVITIES OF GREAT POWERS." TIEMPO THEN DESCRIBED THE AGENCY'S INDEPENDENCE AND LARGE BUDGET AND STATED THE ASSUMPTION THAT A LARGE SHARE OF THE AGENCY'S BUDGET DERIVES FROM TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

3. AFTER A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE CLANDESTINE NATURE OF C.I.A. OPERATIONS, TIEMPO AGAIN TURNED TO A LIGHTLY VEILED ATTACK ON MERUELO.

"ITS (C.I.A.) CLANDESTINE NATURE IS ONE OF THE FACTORS OF ITS SUCCESS, ALTHOUGH IN SOME CASES ITS AGENTS DO NOT HIDE THEMSELVES, BUT RATHER FLAUNT THE HONOR, PARTICULARLY THOSE NOT OF AMERICAN NATIONALITY.

"DOES THE C.I.A. FUNCTION IN HONDURAS?

"THE C.I.A. IS LIKE THE AIR, IT PENETRATES INTO ALL PLACES NOT HERMETICALLY SEALED.

"THERE ARE HERE SEVERAL SECOND RATE AGENTS, DISGUISED AS NEWS-PAPERMEN, BUT NO ONE TAKES THEM SERIOUSLY." (OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO MERUELO).

TIEMPO THEN ACCUSES THE ALREADY "BOUGHT" NEWSPAPERS (LA NOTICIA AND LA PRENSA) OF JUSTIFYING ALL ACTIVITY UNDER TAKEN BY THE C.I.A. AND REITERATES ITS EARLY ATTACK ON THE NEWSPAPERS AS CONSPIRATORS AGAINST THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT.

4. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY ANSWERING ITS ORIGINAL QUESTION, "DOES THE C.I.A. FUNCTION IN HONDURAS?" ASIDE FROM THE "SECOND RATE" NEWSPAPERMEN (MERUELO) THERE REALLY IS NO C.I.A. EFFORT IN HONDURAS. THE C.I.A. HAS REAL PROGRAMS ONLY WHERE COUNTRIES PROVIDE REAL THREATS TO U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST. "HERE THERE IS NO NECESSITY FOR THE STRONG ARM OF THE TRANSNATIONALS TO OPPOSE SUPERFICIAL REFORMS THAT DO NOT GO BEYOND THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM, BUT RATHER REINFORCE IT IN LOOKING FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 04034 251504Z

5. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT THIS FEUD CAN CONTINUE ON THE EDITORIAL PAGES WHILE VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER NEWSPAPER SPACE IS DEVOTED TO THE DISASTROUS HURRICANE DAMAGE DEMONSTRATES THE DEGREE OF PERSONAL ANTAGONISM BETWEEN MERUELO AND THE PUBLISHERS OF TIEMPO AND LIKELY REFLECTS THE POLITICAL DIVISION BETWEEN THE FORCES REPRESENTED BY THE NEWSPAPERS. SANCHEZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, NEWSPAPERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974TEGUCI04034  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740270-0395  
**From:** TEGUCIGALPA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740917/aaaaaoku.tel  
**Line Count:** 114  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** TEGUCIGALPA 3909  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HONDURAN PRESS TREATMENT OF ALLEGED C.I.A. ACTIVITIES  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, HO, US, CIA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005